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Each year, the Georgia Chapter of the American Planning Association (GPA) recognizes communities throughout the state that have conducted projects or developed plans that embody innovation, creativity, effectiveness and viability. Last month, Clarkston's Livable Centers Initiative 10-Year Plan Update was recognized by GPA with the award for Outstanding Planning Document – Small Community. The award was presented at the GPA Annual Fall Conference on September 10th in Savannah. On hand to accept the award were Planning & Development Manager Jason Gaines and Laura Richter of TSW, Inc., who served as the lead consultant on the development of the plan.



Clarkston Police Judgmental Use of Force Training



During the month of July the Clarkston Police Department took part in Judgmental Use of Force Training. This training utilized video scenarios that required officers to make real-time decisions on the appropriate level of force to use in each of the simulations they were presented. Each Officer was presented with a variety of scenarios including Domestic Violence calls, an Armed Robbery in Progress and an Active Shooter at a School. While some simulations required

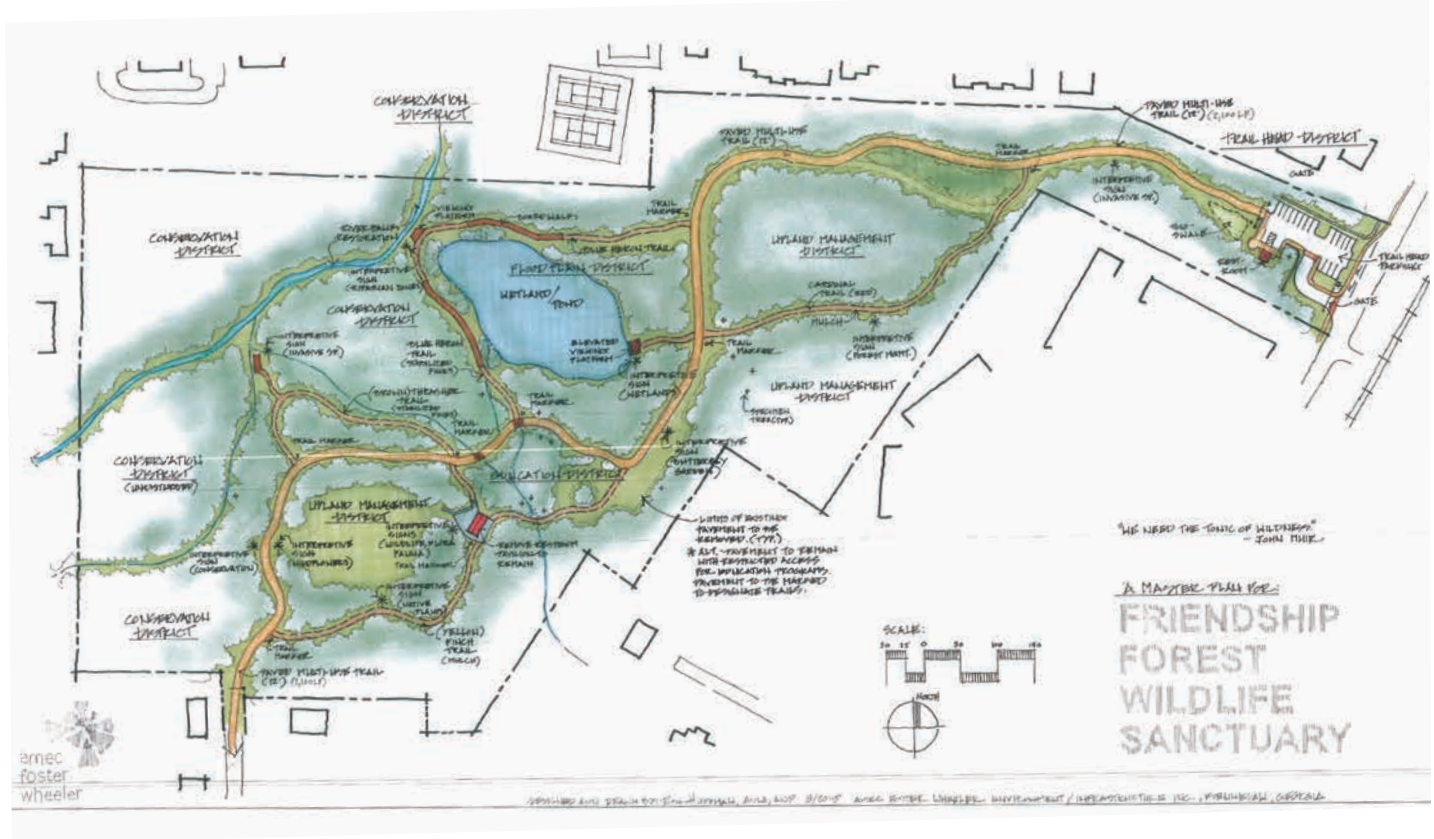
the officer to use deadly force, others did not. This allowed for the evaluation of the officer's ability to judge the appropriate level of force necessary for each scenario they were presented. After the simulation, the video could be played back to review the actions taken by each officer. Mayor Terry, Councilman Hogan and civilian staff members also participated in the training. This provided each participant with a limited perspective of the situations and real-time decisions faced by Police Officers.

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Friendship Forest Continued From Cover



The City contracted with the firm of AMEC, Foster, Wheeler to develop the Master Plan which will include diagrams that depict the locations of park facilities, provisions for ingress, egress and parking, pedestrian circulation, linkages with other resources, locations for signage and recommendations for any landscape planting. Preliminary order-of-magnitude cost estimates for each programmatic element, utilities and infrastructure will also be provided.

The process included the development of a base map that reflected the existing park site. The project team conducted a detailed visual survey of all park environs. This reconnaissance level survey included an inventory of physical and environmental features, transportation networks, aesthetics, view sheds, adjacent land use and neighborhood character. The project team utilized this information to prepare an analysis that focused on the development potential of the existing park site along with an identification of opportunities and constraints.

An initial public meeting was held on July 30th to inform the community about the project and to gather initial input. The information gathered from this meeting was integrated with a review of known issues and provided guidance for development of alternative concept plans. A second public meeting was held on September 3rd to inform the public regarding the current status of the project, to present the alternative master plans, to identify significant issues for further analysis, and establish a concept for the park.

The AMEC team is in the process of developing final park master plan drawings, technical memoranda, cost estimates and other supporting documents which will be assembled into a final report reflecting the cumulative effort of the planning process. The City Council will vote to accept the results of the Master Plan at the November Council Meeting.

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Clarkston Communicycle

By Justine Okello

Clarkston Communicycle was established by volunteers from Communicycle in 2012, and become a formal Clarkston Community Center (CCC) program in 2013. Traditionally offering one open shop day per week, Clarkston Communicycle used volunteers to oversee the bike shop, fix bikes and teach clients how to fix bikes. Bikes were made available for purchase at a flat rate or through an “earn-a-bike” program where participants learned how to build and fix used bikes with help of the shop volunteers. Clarkston Communicycle also held open shop hours during the Clarkston Farmers Market time and CC volunteers also provided education on safe cycling techniques to CCC after school programs.

The City of Clarkston saw a need to educate its diverse population on bike safety, and in doing so they funded Clarkston Communicycle Program to promote bicycle use and extensively educate the public on bike safety. At the center are three key building blocks for the program: education and enrichment, infrastructure, and sustainability. The program addresses bike safety on many levels: providing bike safety at after-school programs and summer camps; visiting apartment complexes; and also recreational parks and Thrifftown parking lot. It is popular with the community and has reached over 510 youth alone since May 2015. The program is run by Shakir Shakir, the recreational coordinator and bike mechanic, and Justine Okello who is the bike safety educator and community connector, plus numerous volunteers and two part time shop staff.

Clarkston Communicycle program assists local youth in safe bicycle operation in urban settings and also offers training in tangible

lifelong skills related to bicycling. With the diversity of Clarkston city, there are many people biking without proper knowledge of traffic rules. One community member said, “Back home cyclist are not really mindful of bike safety while on the road and there are no bike lanes, let alone we don’t put on helmets and we just bike.” A similar statement has been said by many, mostly refugees. However, we have US born members who also fall in a similar category of not considering bike safety as a precaution.

Recently on September 12, 2015, New American Pathways a resettlement agency contacted Clarkston Communicycle to offer bike safety training to their 85 clients who were all to be given bikes to help them with transport challenges. Larry Kaiser, planner with the City of Clarkston was one of the guest representatives at the event.

The goal of the City of Clarkston and Clarkston Communicycle is to promote safe bicycle use and increase cycling amongst the people in the area. In this regard, Clarkston Communicycle

Biking Club has also been established to encourage biking amongst the community members, this has continued to attract the community where we have both youth and

elders join in on the biking every Saturday from 10am – 11am. This is a message from Clarkston Communicycle team, “You don’t have to log thousands of miles to gain rewards from riding your bike more and driving your car less. Regardless of whether you’re on a fancy new two-wheeler or the battered old reliable you bought years ago, bike riding not only gives you a terrific workout with lots of interest and fun to keep you going but also may help your financial health at the same time it boosts your physical condition when you bike to do shopping, commuting, visiting friends or just taking a joy ride”.

The goal of the City of Clarkston and Clarkston Communicycle is to promote safe bicycle use and increase cycling amongst the people in the area.

Clean-Up Clarkston Campaign

By Mayor Ted Terry

Have you ever driven through downtown Clarkston and seen trash strewn all over the parking lots of the shopping centers? Maybe taken a leisurely walk and noticed a bank owned property has 3-foot-tall grass and weeds surrounding the curb. You probably thought: I wish someone would do something about that.

Well, I'm happy to report that Clarkston is in the middle of a city-wide cleanup campaign. As part of this campaign, we are going through every Apartment Complex in the city, every shopping center, as well surveying our neighborhoods. All with the intent of making Clarkston a cleaner and greener place to live.

Now, these "sweeps" as we call them, are not

intended to be punitive. Landlords violating the property maintenance code will get a warning, and everyone who gets a warning will have a chance to pick up the trash, mow the grass, fix broken buildings, or otherwise bring their property up to acceptable standards.



Hopefully you have already noticed the difference. Driving down Market street, you might notice that buildings have a fresh coat of paint, parking lots are clear of trash more often, old broken signs have been replaced, and bank-owned residential properties are actually keeping up appearances for a change.

We are committed to making our community a cleaner, greener and healthier place to live. Thank you for helping make Clarkston a place we are all proud to call home.

Fall Leaves Pick-up

CITY OF CLARKSTON

PUBLIC WORKS

NOVEMBER 7 NOVEMBER 14 NOVEMBER 21

The City of Clarkston will be offering curb-side pickup service for BAGGED LEAVES

***Bags must be placed curb side no later than 8:30 AM on the scheduled pick-up day**

***Bags can be placed curb side after 6:00 PM on the day before pick-up**



Clarkston Streets Alive!

By McKenzie Wren

Streets Alive is coming to Clarkston! On November 8, the Clarkston Community Center and City of Clarkston are proud to announce the first ever Clarkston Streets Alive! The event kicks off at 2:00 p.m. with a bicycle parade leaving from the Clarkston Community Center, and event continues until 5 p.m. Enjoy biking, skating, walking and rolling down the streets and take part in this fun, free, family-friendly event!

Streets alive initiatives open streets for people by temporarily closing them to cars to create a whole new healthy, sustainable and vibrant city street experience. The Open Streets movement is about so much more than the bike. Open Streets are about getting communities active and changing the way people view their streets and neighborhoods. And the beautiful thing about Open Streets is they are for everyone--from young to old, from people on skateboards and rollerblades to people in wheelchairs and unicycles.

Participants can expect a wealth of activities hosted by community organizations and businesses.

Community groups and businesses can get involved by: extending business onto the sidewalk by setting up cafe tables or displays and serving guests and customers; planning or sponsoring an activity that activates the space in front of their business; volunteering to help run the event or becoming a sponsor of the event

The Route: The streets of Clarkston will spring to life on Sunday, November 8 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., as a 1.2 -mile loop on N Indian Creek, DeBelle and Market Streets are opened to people on foot, bike, and other human-powered activities, and closed to motorized traffic. The route will connect Clarkston across the track and include all the streets inside the circle.

For more information, email info@clarkstoncommunitycenter.org and stay tuned for an interactive map, which will be available the week before the event. The Clarkston Streets Alive Facebook page will be up soon too with all the information you could hope for!

Clarkston Streets Alive is an initiative of the Clarkston Community Center and City of Clarkston in partnership with Atlanta Bicycle Coalition.



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Five candidates seek council seats in November City Election

Five candidates have filed for three Council seats currently held by Jean Brown, Warren Hadlock and Dianne Leonetti. Warren Hadlock is the only Incumbent seeking re-election.

The election will be held Tuesday, November 3, 2015. Voting will take place at Clarkston International Bible Church, 3895 Church Street, Clarkston, GA from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Any person who is a resident of the City of Clarkston and who is registered at least thirty (30) days prior to this election with the DeKalb County Board of Registrations and Elections as an elector within the City of Clarkston shall be eligible to vote in this election. Deadline for voter registration is October 5, 2015.

Application for absentee ballots may be made by mail or in person to the Absentee Ballot Clerk, DeKalb County Elections Division, 4380 Memorial Drive, Suite 300, Decatur, GA 30032, 404-298-4020.

Qualified Candidates

- Beverly H. Burks
- Birendra Dhakal
- Awet "Howard" Eyasu
- Warren Hadlock (I)
- Mario Williams



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